

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for reducing the potential for electric shock, comprising:
  - a body;
  - a battery drawer slidably mounted in the body and being operable to have an open state and a closed state, the battery drawer having a cavity and a plurality of contacts arranged to receive at least one battery;
  - a battery drawer cover separately secured within the body;
  - wherein the battery drawer cover extends at least over the top of the at least one battery in the battery drawer, and
  - an ejection mechanism operable to eject the battery drawer from the body and place the battery drawer in the open state, wherein when the battery drawer is in the open state the plurality of contacts are disengaged from any power source from within the body, and
  - wherein the ejection mechanism comprises a biasing means mounted to the battery drawer cover.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein when the battery drawer is in the closed state the plurality of contacts are connected to the any power source from within the body.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the power source comprises a battery charging circuit.

4-6. Cancelled

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the biasing mechanism comprises at least one spring.

8. Cancelled.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein a portion of at least one of the plurality of contacts ~~has a portion that~~ extends beyond the battery drawer and functions as the ejection mechanism.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the body is a body of a cordless telephone base station.

11. (Previously Presented) A cordless telephone apparatus having a stand-by battery recharging system, comprising:

a base station having a body;

a battery charging circuit disposed in the body;

a battery drawer slidably mounted in the body, the battery drawer being configured to receive and hold at least one rechargeable battery; and

a combination ejector and electrical circuit maker,

wherein the combination ejector and electrical circuit maker establishes an electric circuit between the battery charging circuit and the at least one rechargeable battery when the battery drawer is in a closed state, operates to eject the battery drawer from the body, and electrically opens the electric circuit between the battery charging circuit and the at least one rechargeable battery when the battery drawer is in an open state,

and wherein the battery drawer is held captive in the body in the open state.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising a battery drawer cover, wherein the battery drawer cover extends at least over the top of the at least one rechargeable battery in the battery drawer.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein at least a substantial portion of the combination ejector and electrical circuit maker is mounted on the battery drawer cover.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising at least one spring.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein a substantial portion of the combination ejector and electrical circuit maker is mounted on the battery drawer.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the combination ejector and electrical circuit maker comprises an electrically conductive contact folded in such a way as to maintain the at least one battery within the battery drawer and to bias the battery drawer toward an exterior of the body.

17. (Currently Amended) A battery holding apparatus, comprising:

- a drawer having a front face and sides, the sides respectively having a flange extending therefrom;
- at least one contact having front-facing and back-facing portions, the front-facing portion being in contact with a terminal of a battery when the drawer holds a battery;
- an extension portion that extends beyond the at least one contact and in a direction away from the front face; and
- a battery drawer cover having at least one protrusion extending ~~therefrom~~ over the extension portion, the protrusion having at least one spring arranged to come into contact with the back-facing portion of the at least one contact, the at least one spring being in electrical contact with a battery charging circuit,

wherein, when the battery drawer is in a closed state, the at least one spring is compressed between the protrusion and the back-facing portion of the at least one contact such that electrical power is provided to the at least one contact, and

wherein, when the battery drawer is released to be in an open state, the at least one spring acts to push the battery drawer away from the protrusion such that any electrical circuit previously established is opened.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the battery drawer cover is mounted to a body.

19. Cancelled.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the front face is flush with a body when the battery drawer is in the closed state.

21. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the battery drawer is held captive in the body in the open state.

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the at least one spring is operable to both eject the battery drawer out of the body in the open state and to establish electrical connection between the plurality of contacts and an electrical circuit within the body in the closed state.

23. (New) The battery holding apparatus of claim 17, wherein the battery drawer cover extends at least over the top of the at least one battery in the battery drawer in the closed state.